ment of the Branch Transport and Shipping Office, Calcutta about excess payment of custom duty.

(c) The refund of Rs. 57.26 lakhs was made by customs in favour of SAIL on April 13, 1988. Custom Department do not give any interest to the assessee on the claims lodged for refund of duty paid in excess.

During the intervening period, loss of interest of Rs. 15.52 lakhs appears to have been calculated at the rate of 18 per cent per annum. This may be construed as loss to SAIL.

(d) and (e) No, Madam.

(f) Does not arise.

Setting up of merchant pig iron plant at Mangalore

3410. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Kudremukh iron ore company is likely to set up a merchant pig iron plant at Mangalore;

(b) if so, what is the estimated in vestment and capacity of the plant;

(c) whether any feasibility report has been prepared on the plant; and

(d) if so, the salient features of the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (a) to (d) Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited (KIOCL) is examining a proposal for setting up a merchant pig iron plant at Mangalore and has taken action to get a Feasibility Report prepared in this regard.

Steel Production

3411. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any White Paper was released in mid-seventies indicating that the Steel Production would be pushed up to 75 million tonnes by the turn of the century;

(b) if so, what are the results achieved till date and likely to be achieved by 2000 A.D.; and

(c) what are the steps undertaken by the Ministry to modernise the existing SAIL units and complete the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant and the amount needed and granted for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) A White Paper on Steel Industry was brought out in mid seventies by the Government in which it was envisaged that steel production capacity of about 75 million tonnes would be created by the turn of the country.

(b) The total production of finished steel in the country during 1991-92 was 14.2 MT and is expected to reach to a level of about 24 MT in 1996-97.

(c) Government have already approved the schemes for the modernisation of Durgapur and Rourkela Steel Plants. These are under implementation. The proposals for modernisation of Bokaro and IISCO Plants are under examination of the Government. Visakhapatnam Steel Plant has been fully commissioned in July, 1992 and the total cost of the project is being estimated at Rs. 8343.73 crores and so far an amount of Rs. 7491.55 crores has been spent till May, 1992. The full capacity utilisation is anticipated by the year 1996-97.

इस्पात उद्योग का विकास

3412. **डा. जिनेन्द्र कुमार जैन :**
श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज :

क्या इस्पात मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि योजना आयोग ने आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में